



Morning Star Las Cruces 2025 Discussion Questions

December 21, 2025 (Advent 4)

Series: A Jarring Christmas: Resisting Despair with Defiant Expectation

Title: Committed Love

Text: Matthew 1:18-25

1. If love were a food, what kind would it be, and why?

2. Advent invites us to open our hearts to the coming of Christ, to welcome the Spirit of God in our midst. When have you felt truly seen or welcomed by another person in a way that stayed with you?

3. What stood out to you in the message titled *A Jarring Christmas: Committed Love*? Did anything reshape how you think about what love requires or how it behaves?

4. Read Matthew 1:18-25. What does this story communicate to you? How does it speak to the meaning or experience of love?

Mission and Vision of Morning Star: To point people to the grace of God found in Jesus through inspirational worship, radical inclusion and the alleviation of suffering.

5. The angel tells Joseph not to fear taking Mary as his wife. What kinds of fears sometimes make it difficult for us to choose love, especially a love that welcomes, protects or sacrifices?
6. Joseph chooses compassion over pride, fear or social reputation. How does his response to this confusing and costly situation expand your understanding of what committed love looks like?
7. Read Hosea 11:1-4. How does this image of God's tender, guiding love help you imagine the kind of love Jesus comes to embody? What does this mean for how we are called to live?
8. Read 1 John 4:18-21. What connections do you see between fear, love and the way we relate to others? How does this passage challenge or encourage you?
9. Love often requires action, large or small, that opens space for others. Where might God be inviting you to take a step this week to show love that sees, blesses or welcomes?
10. How can your group pray for you as you seek to embody love in this Advent season?

Mission and Vision of Morning Star: To point people to the grace of God found in Jesus through inspirational worship, radical inclusion and the alleviation of suffering.